

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1872

AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States Army
3 Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold
4 Medal Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act—

7 (1) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
8 of the Treasury; and

9 (2) the term “United States Army Rangers
10 Veteran of World War II” means any individual
11 who—

12 (A) served in the Armed Forces—

13 (i) honorably;

14 (ii) in an active duty status; and

15 (iii) at any time during the period be-
16 ginning on June 19, 1942, and ending on
17 September 2, 1945; and

18 (B) was assigned to a Ranger Battalion of
19 the Army at any time during the period de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (A)(iii).

21 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

22 Congress finds the following:

23 (1) In World War II, the Army formed 6 Rang-
24 er Battalions and 1 provisional battalion. All mem-
25 bers of the Ranger Battalions were volunteers. The
26 initial concept of Ranger units drew from the British

1 method of using highly trained “commando” units
2 and the military tradition of the United States of
3 utilizing light infantry for scouting and raiding oper-
4 ations.

5 (2) The Ranger Battalions of World War II
6 consisted of—

7 (A) the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion,
8 which was activated on June 19, 1942, in
9 Northern Ireland;

10 (B) the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion,
11 which was activated on April 1, 1943, at Camp
12 Forrest, Tennessee;

13 (C) the 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion,
14 which was—

15 (i) activated as provisional on May 21,
16 1943, in North Africa; and

17 (ii) constituted on July 21, 1943, and
18 concurrently consolidated with the provi-
19 sional unit described in clause (i);

20 (D) the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion,
21 which was—

22 (i) activated as provisional on May 29,
23 1943, in North Africa; and

1 (ii) constituted on July 21, 1943, and
2 concurrently consolidated with the provi-
3 sional unit described in clause (i);

4 (E) the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion,
5 which was activated on September 1, 1943, at
6 Camp Forrest, Tennessee;

7 (F) the 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion,
8 which was—

9 (i) originally activated on January 20,
10 1941, at Fort Lewis, Washington, as the
11 98th Field Artillery Battalion; and

12 (ii) converted and redesignated on
13 September 26, 1944, as the 6th Ranger
14 Infantry Battalion; and

15 (G) the 29th Ranger Infantry Battalion, a
16 provisional Army National Guard unit that
17 was—

18 (i) activated on December 20, 1942,
19 at Tidworth Barracks, England; and

20 (ii) disbanded on October 18, 1943.

21 (3) The first combat operations of Army Rang-
22 ers occurred on August 19, 1942, when 50 Rangers
23 took part in the British-Canadian raid on the
24 French coastal town of Dieppe.

1 (4) The 1st Ranger Battalion, under the leader-
2 ship of Major William O. Darby, was used in full
3 strength during the landings at Arsew, Algeria, dur-
4 ing the North African campaign. Due to the success
5 of the Rangers in several difficult battles, particu-
6 larly at El Guettar in March and April of 1943, 2
7 additional Ranger Battalions were organized in
8 North Africa.

9 (5) During the North African campaign, the 1st
10 Ranger Battalion was awarded battle honors for its
11 actions in Tunisia. On March 20, 1943, the Bat-
12 talion penetrated enemy lines and captured the posi-
13 tion Djebel el Ank in a nighttime attack, taking
14 more than 200 prisoners. Two days later, the bat-
15 talion was attacked by the 10th Panzer division of
16 the German Afrika Korps and, despite heavy losses,
17 continued to defend its position. The following day,
18 the 1st Battalion counterattacked to clear high
19 ground overlooking the positions held by the Armed
20 Forces. These actions demonstrated the ability of
21 the Rangers to fight in difficult terrain and the
22 courage to endure despite being outnumbered and
23 exposed to heavy enemy fire.

24 (6) The 29th provisional Ranger Battalion was
25 formed from volunteers drawn from the 29th Infan-

1 try Division stationed in England in the fall of 1942.
2 The Battalion was activated on December 20, 1942,
3 and accompanied British commandos on 3 small-
4 scale raids in Norway. Nineteen members of the
5 29th Ranger Battalion conducted a raid on a Ger-
6 man radar site in France on the night of September
7 3, 1943. After that raid, the 29th Ranger Battalion
8 was disbanded because new Ranger units, the 2d
9 and 5th Battalions, were being formed.

10 (7) During the summer and fall of 1943, the
11 1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Battalions were heavily in-
12 volved in the campaign in Sicily and the landings in
13 Italy. The 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions conducted
14 a night amphibious landing in Sicily and secured the
15 landing beaches for the main force. The 3d Bat-
16 talion landed separately at Licata, Sicily, and was
17 able to silence gun positions on an 82-foot cliff over-
18 looking the invasion beaches.

19 (8) During the invasion of Italy, the 1st and
20 4th Ranger Battalions landed at Maiori with the
21 mission of seizing the high ground and protecting
22 the flank of the remainder of the main landing by
23 the United States. Enemy forces in the area were es-
24 timated to outnumber the Rangers by approximately

1 8 to 1. Despite these odds, the Rangers took the po-
2 sition and held off 7 enemy counterattacks.

3 (9) After the invasion of Italy, Rangers contin-
4 ued to be used, often in night attacks, to seize key
5 terrain ahead of the advancing Allied forces. At the
6 Anzio beachhead, the majority of the 1st, 3d, and
7 4th Ranger Battalions sustained heavy casualties
8 after being cut off behind German lines. The Rang-
9 ers had planned to infiltrate German positions under
10 the cover of darkness and make a dawn attack on
11 a critical road junction but were pinned down by
12 enemy tanks and an elite German paratrooper unit.
13 After 12 hours of desperate fighting and a failed re-
14 lief attempt, the majority of the Ranger force was
15 killed, wounded, or captured. Only 6 Rangers from
16 the 1st and 3d Battalions, out of more than 767
17 men, returned to friendly lines. The 4th Battalion,
18 which had been in reserve, also suffered 60 killed
19 and 120 wounded out of 550 men. These 3 battal-
20 ions were inactivated and the survivors were trans-
21 ferred to other units.

22 (10) In the United States, and later in Scot-
23 land, the 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions were formed
24 to undertake operations in Western Europe. Those
25 Battalions were engaged on D-Day, assaulting Ger-

1 man positions at the Pointe du Hoc coastal battery,
2 and remained in combat through September of
3 1944. Specifically, Rangers in the 2d Battalion,
4 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James E.
5 Rudder—

6 (A) overcame mines, machine gun fire, and
7 enemy artillery while scaling the 100-foot high
8 cliffs at Pointe du Hoc;

9 (B) held against intense German efforts to
10 retake the position; and

11 (C) after reaching the top of the cliffs,
12 moved inland roughly 1 mile and sustained
13 heavy casualties while searching for, and ulti-
14 mately destroying, a German heavy artillery
15 battery.

16 (11) During June, July, and August of 1944,
17 the 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions were engaged in
18 the campaign in Brest, which included close-range
19 fighting in hedgerows and numerous villages. Later,
20 in operations in Western Germany, the Battalions
21 were frequently used to attack in darkness and gain
22 vital positions to pave the way for the main Army
23 attacks.

24 (12) During the final drive into Germany in
25 late February and early March 1945, the 5th Rang-

1 er Battalion was cited for battle honors for out-
2 standing performance. Under the cover of darkness,
3 the unit drove into German lines and blocked the
4 main German supply route in the sector. The Ger-
5 mans attacked the position of the Rangers from both
6 sides, resulting in heavy Ranger casualties during 5
7 days of fighting. As a result of the actions of the
8 Rangers, the main Army attack was able to over-
9 come German defenses more easily, occupy the vital
10 city of Trier, and reach the Rhine River.

11 (13) The 6th Ranger Battalion operated in the
12 Pacific. In the most notable exploit of the 6th Rang-
13 er Battalion, in January and February of 1945, the
14 Battalion formed the nucleus of a rescue force that
15 liberated more than 500 Allied prisoners, including
16 prisoners from the United States, from the Caba-
17 natuan prisoner of war camp in the Philippines.
18 With the help of local Filipino guerillas, the Rang-
19 ers, led by Lieutenant Colonel Henry A. Mucci, dem-
20 onstrated extraordinary heroism by infiltrating Jap-
21 anese-held territory to reach the prisoners of war
22 and prevent them from being killed by the Japanese.
23 After a 25-mile march at night through the jungle,
24 the unit killed all Japanese sentries with no loss of
25 life of the prisoners of war. The unit successfully re-

1 turned to American lines having lost only 2 soldiers
 2 killed and having another 2 wounded.

3 (14) The 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion—

4 (A) participated in the campaigns of—

5 (i) Algeria-French Morocco (with ar-
 6 rowhead);

7 (ii) Tunisia;

8 (iii) Sicily (with arrowhead);

9 (iv) Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead);

10 (v) Anzio (with arrowhead); and

11 (vi) Rome-Arno; and

12 (B) for its contributions, received—

13 (i) the Presidential Unit Citation
 14 (Army) and streamer embroidered with
 15 “EL GUETTAR”; and

16 (ii) the Presidential Unit Citation
 17 (Army) and streamer embroidered with
 18 “SALERNO”.

19 (15) The 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion—

20 (A) participated in the campaigns of—

21 (i) Normandy (with arrowhead);

22 (ii) Northern France;

23 (iii) Rhineland;

24 (iv) Ardennes-Alsace; and

25 (v) Central Europe; and

- 1 (B) for its contributions, received—
- 2 (i) the Presidential Unit Citation
- 3 (Army) and streamer embroidered with
- 4 “POINTE DU HOE”; and
- 5 (ii) the French Croix de Guerre with
- 6 Silver-Gilt Star, World War II, and
- 7 streamer embroidered with “POINTE DU
- 8 HOE”.
- 9 (16) The 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion—
- 10 (A) participated in the campaigns of—
- 11 (i) Sicily (with arrowhead);
- 12 (ii) Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead);
- 13 (iii) Anzio (with arrowhead); and
- 14 (iv) Rome-Arno; and
- 15 (B) for its contributions, received the Pres-
- 16 idential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer em-
- 17 broidered with “SALERNO”.
- 18 (17) The 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion—
- 19 (A) participated in the campaigns of—
- 20 (i) Sicily (with arrowhead);
- 21 (ii) Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead);
- 22 (iii) Anzio (with arrowhead); and
- 23 (iv) Rome-Arno; and

1 (B) for its contributions, received the Pres-
 2 idential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer em-
 3 broidered with “SALERNO”.

4 (18) The 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion—

5 (A) participated in the campaigns of—

6 (i) Normandy (with arrowhead);

7 (ii) Northern France;

8 (iii) Rhineland;

9 (iv) Ardennes-Alsace; and

10 (v) Central Europe; and

11 (B) for its contributions, received—

12 (i) the Presidential Unit Citation
 13 (Army) and streamer embroidered with
 14 “NORMANDY BEACHHEAD”;

15 (ii) the Presidential Unit Citation
 16 (Army) and streamer embroidered with
 17 “SAAR RIVER AREA”; and

18 (iii) the French Croix de Guerre with
 19 Silver-Gilt Star, World War II, and
 20 streamer embroidered with “NOR-
 21 MANDY”.

22 (19) The 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion—

23 (A) participated in the campaigns of—

24 (i) New Guinea;

25 (ii) Leyte (with arrowhead); and

- 1 (iii) Luzon; and
- 2 (B) for its contributions, received—
- 3 (i) the Presidential Unit Citation
- 4 (Army) and streamer embroidered with
- 5 “CEBU, LUZON”; and
- 6 (ii) the Philippine Presidential Unit
- 7 Citation and streamer embroidered with
- 8 “17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945”.

9 (20) The United States will be forever indebted

10 to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of

11 World War II, whose bravery and sacrifice in com-

12 bat contributed greatly to the military success of the

13 United States and the allies of the United States.

14 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tem-

16 pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-

17 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the

18 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of

19 appropriate design to the United States Army Rangers

20 Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedi-

21 cated service during World War II.

22 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the

23 award described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall

24 strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and

25 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

1 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
3 gold medal in honor of the United States Army
4 Rangers Veterans of World War II, the gold medal
5 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
6 the medal shall be—

7 (A) available for display, as appropriate;

8 and

9 (B) made available for research.

10 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
11 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
12 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
13 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other
14 locations associated with—

15 (A) the United States Army Rangers Vet-
16 erans of World War II; or

17 (B) World War II.

18 (d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike
20 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal
21 struck under this section, at a price sufficient to
22 cover the cost of the medals, including the cost of
23 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and over-
24 head expenses.

1 (2) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts re-
2 ceived from the sale of duplicate medals under para-
3 graph (1) shall be deposited in the United States
4 Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

5 (e) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
6 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
7 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
8 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck
12 under section 4 shall be a national medal for the purposes
13 of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

14 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For the purposes of sec-
15 tion 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
16 struck under section 4 shall be considered to be numis-
17 matic items.

Passed the Senate October 26, 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of
World War II in recognition of their extraor-
dinary service during World War II.